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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,255	02/14/2002	Akira Yamazaki	107348-00209	5067

7590                    03/23/2004

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EXAMINER

MCAULITY, TIMOTHY P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/074,255	YAMAZAKI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Timothy P McAnulty	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)      4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)      5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.      6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingle et al. in view of Becker et al.

Bingle et al. discloses in figures 2-3, in lines 33-35 of column 3, and in lines 1-20 of column 7, a handle made from an inherently translucent polycarbonate having a light source 46 therein. Bingle et al. does not disclose said translucent polycarbonate having a transparent coating thereon nor does it disclose said transparent coating having a metallic gloss. However, Becker et al. in lines 16-36 of column 36 and in lines 21 to 42 of column 64 teaches a transparent coating having a metallic gloss for use on translucent plastics. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Bingle et al. in view of the teachings of Becker et al. to include translucent coating having a metallic gloss so as to provide a visually appealing coating with improved wear resistance properties.

3. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aikens in view of Bingle et al.

Aikens discloses in figures 1-3 a plastic operating knob of an air conditioning outlet vent comprising a lamp. Aikens does not disclose said operating knob made from a translucent resin. However, Bingle et al. teaches in figures 2-3 and in lines 33-35 of column 3, a handle made from translucent polycarbonate. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

Art Unit: 3682

art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Aikens in view of the teachings of Bingle et al. to make the knob from a translucent polycarbonate to provide a visually appealing knob and thus improve the user interface with adjusting the amount of air flow from said air conditioning outlet vent.

*Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments filed 08 January 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Becker et al. teaches in column 34 lines 20-49 that the coatings disclosed in therein are ideally suited for use on clear or colored translucent bodies automotive applications and illuminated signs. As such, the teachings further disclosed in column 64 lines 21-42, although specifically taught as being applied to a metallic base and not a plastic base, are applicable to the handle disclosed in Bingle et al. That is to say, the teachings of the specific example in column 64 lines 21-42 are not narrowly limited to only being applied to metallic bases.

*Conclusion*

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

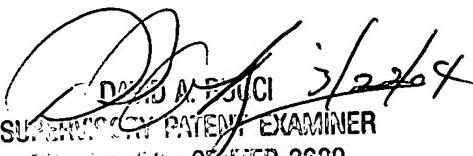
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy P McAnulty whose telephone number is 703.308.8684. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on 703.308.3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9326.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.1113.

tpm/jh  
17 March 2004

  
DAVID A. BUCCI  
SUPERVISOR PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600  
*3/26/04*